

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 13, 16-33, and 36-49 are pending in the application. Claims 16-33 and 36-40 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 34, and 35 have been canceled. New claims 41-49 have been added.

Substitute Specification

Minor changes have been made to the specification to place it in better form for U.S. practice.

The above-noted specification changes are set forth in the attached Substitute Specification. The Substitute Specification does not contain new matter.

A Comparison Specification showing the matter being added to and deleted from the original specification is also submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the Substitute Specification.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 34, and 35 have been objected to because of some informalities.

Claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 34, and 35 have been canceled.

Other claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-15, 34, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of some informalities.

Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 34, and 35 have been canceled.

Other rejected claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Forbes et al. (USP 6,062,599). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 7, which includes allowable subject matter, to place it in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 3, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marchant (USP 5,564,743). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated in the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 7, which includes allowable subject matter, to place it in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 7-15, 34, and 35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As stated in the foregoing with regard to the Section 102 rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 7 to place claim 1 in condition for allowance.

Further, new claim 41, which includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 8 (includes allowable subject matter) has been added.

Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 34, and 35 have been canceled.

Claims 4, 9, 10, 13, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

New Claims

New claims 41-49 have been added.

As previously stated, independent claim 41, which includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 8 are allowable at least because it include allowable subject matter recited in claim 8.

Claims 42-49, variously dependent on claim 41, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Application No.: 10/671,447
Reply dated June 29, 2006
to Office Action of April 3, 2006
Page 21 of 21

Docket No.: 0425-1084P

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

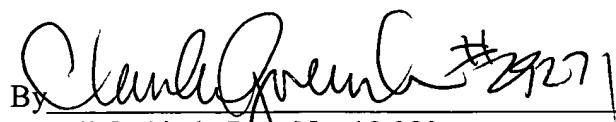
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Terrell C. Birch, Reg. No. 19,382
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: Substitute Specification - 46 pages
Comparison Specification - 46 pages